United States Patent [19]

Lapeyre

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[54] **SINGLE HAND, SINGLE FINGER STROKE ALPHAMERIC DATA PROCESSING KEYBOARD SYSTEM**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **364/709;** 340/365 R

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 364/709; 340/365 R

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The bottleneck of interfacing manual keyboards with high capacity data processing systems to rapidly enter a large number data input characters and processing instructions is resolved to use fewer keys without compromise on the rapidity of data entry. Thus, data input of either characters or processing instructions is entered in response to a single manual actuation stroke of keyboard keyswitches selected either one at a time or concurrently two or more at a time by a single finger on one hand. Thus, numeric calculators can with only nine keyswitches process all ten decimal digits plus a variety of processing instructions. Full alphanumeric data input can be handled with as few as twelve keyswitches. In this mode of operation fewer keys are needed and there is no delay in entry of data. Also the invention provides a layout pattern for touch entry of data with one hand with contoured finger homing positions that sense the right keyswitches and reduce entry errors. A set of side-by-side keys in a single field arranged for selection of each entry by a single finger is provided to improve accuracy of entries by avoiding mental choices and permitting "mechanical" entry of unmemorized new data.

7 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures